

The Electronic Monitoring Program Fact Sheet



What is the Electronic Monitoring Program?

The Electronic Monitoring Program was established in April 2001. The program was designed as an alternative to incarceration and to provide structure, control and accountability for selected probationers and parolees as well as to provide an extra layer of supervision to the community at large.

Under the Massachusetts Probation Service's Electronic Monitoring Program, electronic bracelets have been provided to the Boston Municipal, District, Superior, Probate & Family and Juvenile courts of the Massachusetts Trial Court. Each probation department is equipped with an electronic monitoring device and can be accessed immediately following a judge's order.

The Probation Officer is responsible for the supervision of their assigned probationers who are placed on the Massachusetts Probation Service Electronic Monitoring Program.

How does the Electronic Bracelet work?

- If an offender leaves his or her home at a time not authorized by a judge, an alert (auditory and visual) indicates that the probationer is out of range. The ELMO Command Center then responds immediately.
- If the bracelet is tampered with (banged, removed or hit), a sensor would indicate a violation and probation is alerted.
- If the Probationer has absconded, a warrant is issued for their arrest.

The Massachusetts Probation Service
Programs Division

Paul Lucci, Deputy Commissioner
617-624-9319



Monitoring Centers

Boston—617-727-4500
Central Massachusetts—978-365-2970
Western Massachusetts—413-748-7935
Toll-Free—866-490-1166

Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
365 days a year.



GPS Satellite Phone

The Electronic Monitoring Program Operations

The Electronic Monitoring Program headquarters and daily operations are managed by the Programs Division of the Massachusetts Probation Service. The program's central office is located in Boston and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The Electronic Monitoring Program is staffed by a team of Probation employees.

Probation Officers at various courts throughout the Commonwealth are responsible for hooking up the electronic bracelet on the probationer.

In the event of a violation or when an offender has absconded, the monitoring center immediately notifies the court, Chief Probation Officer or supervising parole officer immediately. This practice occurs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. An arrest warrant is then issued for the offender.

The warrant protocol is applicable for both systems, RF (Radio Frequency) and GPS (Global Positioning System) statewide. There are 774 offenders on the Radio Frequency bracelet and 631 offenders actively being tracked by the GPS system for a combined total of 1,405 offenders statewide on a daily basis.

Massachusetts' Cutting –Edge GPS Monitoring Program

In May 2005, the Massachusetts Probation Service implemented the Global Positioning System (GPS) to track sex offenders actively on parole and sex offenders being supervised by probation that have been deemed appropriate for this type of supervision. GPS consists of 24 satellites orbiting the earth. It can determine the location of offenders wearing the receiver 24 hours a day. The system has the ability to create inclusion (approved) or exclusion (stay away) zones as ordered by the judge or Parole Board.

If an offender enters the area where they have been restricted to, an alert will go off. A Probation employee will contact the offender on a specialized GPS cell phone to find out why they entered the area and to instruct them to leave. If the offender does not comply, the employee will contact a Probation Officer and an arrest warrant may be issued.

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP), located in Boston, serves as the central administrative office for the Massachusetts Probation Service.

Appointed by the Chief Justice for Administration and Management, the Commissioner establishes standards for probation practice, and provides training to probation personnel. The Commissioner's office also conducts research on statewide crime and delinquency trends.



Commissioner John J. O'Brien

Office of the Commissioner of Probation
One Ashburton Place, Room 405
Boston, MA 02108

617-624-9319
Coria.Holland@jud.state.ma.us